

Briefing Sheet for the Chairman, JCS, on a memorandum by the Director, Joint Staff, for the Op Depe meeting, Tuesday, 12 January 1960, Agenda Item No. 6.

J.C.S. MSGO/13

Subject: Request for USAF Assistance in Operation of Tegel GCA by French (U)

Background - The American Embassy, Bonn, stated that the French Military Mission in Berlin had requested that U.S. Commander, Tempelhof, place the GCA unit already installed by USAF at Tegel for contingency use under air lift conditions at the immediate disposal of the French. In addition, the French also requested U.S. to furnish operation personnel who would be relieved by French controllers within three months. However, USAF had stated operation of the GCA would require a minimum of five radar maintenance men and seven controllers and due to the shortage of such personnel, compliance with the French request would necessitate reduction of services at other air bases or reduction of wartime reaction capability.

- J-3, Joint Staff, queried USCINCEUR concerning the number of personnel that could be furnished for a period of 3 months without jeopardy to USAF war readiness. USAF informed JCS that operation and maintenance personnel could be provided by USAF provided no urgent military contingencies developed during the period. In addition, he recommended that maximum reimbursement be obtained from the French for services of USAF personnel and equipment to preclude or minimize the anticipated request for subsequent and recurrent U.S. extension of initial 3 months GCA service.

Current Paper - Recommends USCINCEUR be authorized by message to arrange necessary technical details for use of GCA equipment at Tegel and to provide services required for 3 months on a reimbursable basis after Embassy, Bonn, consummates agreement with French. Informal information from OSD (ISA) indicates State-Defense message to Bonn will include provisions contained in Appendix to subject paper. In addition, State-Defense msg provides that U.S. position on air access to Berlin should be re-examined and commitment should be obtained that jet operation below 10,000 feet will not be undertaken by Air France without full prior tripartite agreement at Bonn.

Service Comments - Army and Navy are expected to concur in the paper as written. Air Force is expected to table memo proposing that msg not be sent by JCS to USCINCEUR but that SecDef be advised to collaborate with State in furnishing guidance to USCINCEUR and Embassy, Bonn. Further, Air Force is expected to insert requirement that personnel and equipment availability be contingent on express assurances that future routine French jet transport operations to Berlin be conducted at optimum altitude in corridors and that a portion of each flight be above 10,000 feet.

Comments and Recommendations - The proposed msg is in accordance with existing directives for transmitting instructions to a unified commander. The safeguards contained in proposed State-Defense msg are in consonance with previous views of JCS on high altitude flights in Berlin corridors. Arguments against AF position are

contained in draft Director's flimsy which may be tabled if necessary to support Army, Navy, and Joint Staff view. Coordination has been effected with the J-5. It is recommended that the paper be supported as written. In the event agreement cannot otherwise be obtained, add new paragraph 1c to JCS msg to USCINCPAC as contained in Director's flimsy.

Opinion as to Recommendations:

Director, J-3 _____ (Concurs) (Non-concurs)

Director, Joint Staff _____ (Concurs) (Non-concurs)

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